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SAPC - 16546  
Copy 3 of 6

12 June 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Cover Officer

SUBJECT : Conversation with Major Sykes on 11 June 1957,  
re Release of SAC Del Rio Cover Story

1. Major Sykes called yesterday to report on the progress of the SAC Del Rio cover story in its wanderings in the Pentagon. He told me that Secretary Quarles was in agreement with the release, with the exception to reference made therein to a specific altitude capability of the aircraft. I told Major Sykes that I felt it was wise for us to accept Secretary Quarles suggestion at this stage, in order to expedite transmission of the release.

2. Accordingly, Maj Sykes had a finished copy of the paper drawn up and presented to Secretary Quarles and General Twining for concurrence. In the course of approving the paper, Mr. Quarles indicated that he wished Colonel Robert Warren, USAF (who is Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary), to brief Mr. Murray Snyder, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Internal Affairs (which is a polite way of saying Press Relations). Col Warren then gave Mr. Snyder a briefing, which Maj Sykes described as somewhat inaccurate, on Project AQUATONE. The strategy of this particular move was that since Mr. Snyder was the overall voice of the Pentagon on Press Relations, any inquiries about the U-2 would receive adequate backstopping from Snyder, who would in turn refer the press to Colonel Casey of the Air Force for details.

3. Maj Sykes indicated that he would like to return to see Mr. Snyder, in the company of [ ] in order to correct some points of the Warren briefing and also to have [ ] brief Mr. Snyder on the content of previous press releases that AQUATONE has experienced.

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4. Later in the day Major Sykes called again to state that he had passed the content of the SAC Del Rio release to Colonel Tilley, the SAC PIO, at Omaha by means of telephone. The detailed question and answer sheet was sent out later in the afternoon by SSO channels.

5. I would appreciate it if you would add Mr. Snyder to the list of persons briefed on the Project, and I believe it would be a good idea to check into the status of Colonel Warren since I believe there is some question as to his knowledgesability. Will you please keep me posted of the content of this briefing of Mr. Snyder, together with any other briefings of this sort.

USAF  
review(s)  
completed.

Distr:

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.

Project Director of Administration

Approved For Release 2003/09/29 : CIA-RDP33-02415A000200230011-1

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